



**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q65710

Kazuhiko NOBE, et al.

Allowed: May 30, 2006

Appln. No.: 09/931,065

Group Art Unit: 3712

Confirmation No.: 2593

Examiner: Mark Alan Sager

Filed: August 17, 2001

For: GAME MACHINE, GAME PROCESSING METHOD AND INFORMATION STORAGE MEDIUM

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

**MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Examiner has presented a statement of reasons for allowance as an attachment to the Notice of Allowability dated May 30, 2006. The Examiner has used the language "game operation" in that statement, and appears to suggest that game operation is limited to a "stepping performance." Applicant disagrees on the basis of the clear teachings in the application.

Specifically, at page 32, line 26 - page 33, line 19, the applications states:

Still further, whereas the present invention is applied to a game machine 10 allowing the player to enjoy the sense of dancing in the above, the present invention can similarly be applied to various types of games, including a drum playing game, in which the player beats a drum pad-shaped controller with a drum stick, a piano playing game, in which the player play a piano-shaped controller, a guitar playing game, in which the player operates a guitar-shaped controller, a samba dance game, in which the player plays a maraca-shaped controller, and a dance game, in which the player's movement of his arms and hands is evaluated using a controller.

Also in these cases, when the game machine is constructed has an arrangement in which timing at which the player is required to operate the game

Comments on Statement of Reasons For Allowance  
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may be presented as a guidance and the guidance level can be changed according to the result of evaluation of the player' s performance in game operation, a feeling of competitiveness between the players can be increased. In addition, increase or decrease of the number of times at which each player is required to operate the game based on the result of evaluation on his operation can increase a feeling of match competition between players of other kinds of games.

The cited text clearly supports an operation broader than only stepping.

Entry and consideration of these remarks are respectfully requested.

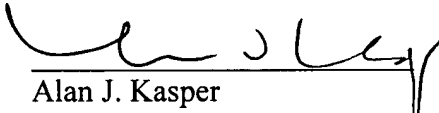
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**23373**

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: July 31, 2006